(b) whether a proposal of rupees 724 lakhs of Government of Madhya Pradesh for the same purpose has been pending with the Central Government; and

(c) if so, the details thereof?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) Yes, Sir.

(b) and (c) SC Hostels

A proposal for Rs. 1078.08 lakhs for SC Girls and Boys hostel had been received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh, out of which an amount of Rs. 261.12 lakhs was released during 2005-06.

ST Hostels

A proposal for Rs. 724.00 lakhs was received from the Government of Madhya Pradesh during 2005-06 for construction of ST Girls and Boys hostels. The same has been released to Government of M.P. during 2005-06 itself.

Care of disabled children

1457. SHRI MANOHAR JOSHI: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) the total number of disabled children in the country;

(b) the total number of disabled out of them who have got education;

(c) whether the Persons with Disabilities (Equal Opportunities, Protection of lights and Full Participation) Act, 1995 is not being implemented to achieve its goal; and

(d) if so, the steps taken/being taken by the Union and State Governments to ensure effective implementation of the Act to benefit the disabled children?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN):

(a) and (b) According to the National Sample Survey 2002, the estimated number of children with disabilities in the age group of 05-18 years is 44.5 lakhs and estimated number of children who are literate, educated upto primary, middle, secondary, higher secondary and diploma is 25.50 lakhs.

(c) and (d) The following steps are being taken for education of children with disabilities:

(i) The Constitution was amended in December, 2002 for making free and compulsory education, a Fundamental Right for all children in the age group of 6-14 years. Accordingly, a national programme *viz.* Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA) was launched with the goal of eight years of elementary schooling for all children including children with disabilities in the age group of 6—14 years by 2010.

(ii) Under the Scheme for the Integrated Education of the Disabled Children (IEDC) being implemented through the Education Departments of the State Governments, Autonomous Bodies and Voluntary Organizations, 100% financial assistance is provided for transport facility, books and stationery, uniform, instructional material, assistive equipments, readers facility for the visually handicapped, attendant facility for the children with locomotor disability, special teacher facilities, hostel facility for disabled children in the school campus, removal of architectural barriers in schools etc.

(iii) The Ministry of Social Justice & Empowerment supports more than 600 institutions for running early intervention, special education, vocational training programmes, teachers training programmes in special education, etc.

(iv) Rehabilitation Council of India has recognized training programmes for the training of master trainers for teachers in primary schools as a part of Sarva Shiksha Abhiyan (SSA). It has

also recognized B.Ed. (Special Education) for training of teachers in special schools. The programme is implemented through National Institutes, private institutions and through distance learning.

(v) In pursuance of the provisions of Section 30 of the Persons with Disabilities Act, 1995 guidelines have been notified for the preparation of education scheme for persons with disabilities for implementation by the Central Ministries, organizations and autonomous bodies under their control. These guidelines have also been circulated to the State Governments for suitable adoption keeping in view their local requirements.

CII-ASSOCHAM Joint Task Force on affirmative action

1458. DR. M.A.M. RAMASWAMY: Will the Minister of SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT be pleased to state:

(a) whether Central Government set up a CII-ASSOCHAM Joint Task Force on affirmative action to suggest ways to stop discrimination in the work place;

(b) if so, whether this Task Force has submitted any draft to Central Government;

(c) if so, the details thereof; and

(d) the steps suggested by the CII-ASSOCHAM Joint Task Force to improve em payability of people from the backward classes?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF SOCIAL JUSTICE AND EMPOWERMENT (SHRIMATI SUBBULAKSHMI JAGADEESAN): (a) No, Sir.

(b) and (c) Do not arise.

(d) CII-ASSOCHAM has recently released a report titled "Concrete steps by Indian Industry on Affirmative Action for Scheduled Castes and Scheduled Tribes". This report is being examined.